

Claims:

1. A tensioning element (1) having:
 - a bearing bracket (2) with a first and second
5 surface (6, 25),
 - a clamping means (3), which is mounted
displaceably in the bearing bracket (2) and which
comprises a clamping piece (4) interacting with
the first surface (6) and a foot (5), wherein the
10 clamping piece (4) and the foot (5) are connected
together by a middle piece (7) and the middle
piece (7) exhibits a smaller diameter than the
foot (5) and
 - a spring (8), which interacts with the second
15 surface (25) and the foot (5).
2. A tensioning element according to claim 1,
characterised in that the middle piece (7) and the
foot (5) are mounted displaceably in the bearing
20 bracket.
3. A tensioning element according to claim 2,
characterised in that the clamping means (3) consists
of two parts.
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4. A tensioning element according to claim 3,
characterised in that the clamping piece (4) and the
middle piece (7) constitute the one part and the foot
(5) is the other part.
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5. A tensioning element according to claim 3,
characterised in that the clamping piece (4) is the

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one part and the middle piece (7) and the foot (5) constitute the other part.

- 5 6. A tensioning element according to any one of claims 3-5, characterised in that the connection between the parts is a material and/or frictional connection.
- 10 7. A tensioning element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the bearing bracket (2) is U-shaped.
- 15 8. A tensioning element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the bearing bracket (2) comprises a preferably annular recess (23) in the first surface (6).
- 20 9. A tensioning element according to claim 8, characterised in that the clamping piece (4) comprises a preferably annular bulge (24), which interacts with the recess (23).
- 25 10. A tensioning element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it is part of a chain (13), preferably a chain conveyor for film webs.
- 30 11. A chain conveyor, preferably for film webs, characterised in that it comprises tensioning elements according to any one of claims 1-9.
12. A means (14) for opening and closing the tensioning element (1) according to any one of claims 1-10, characterised in that it comprises two ramps (15, 16),

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wherein the tensioning element (1) is opened with the ramp (15) and closure of the tensioning element (1) is controlled with the ramp (16).

- 5 13. A means according to claim 11, characterised in that the ramps (15, 16) are arranged at an angle to one another of $< 180^\circ$, preferably $< 130^\circ$, particularly preferably $< 90^\circ$.
- 10 14. A means according to either one of claims 12-13, characterised in that the gradient of each of the ramps (15, 16) is different.
- 15 15. A means (19) for opening and closing the tensioning element (1) according to any one of claims 1-10, characterised in that it is a circular disk (20), the axis of rotation (21) of which is offset relative to the axis of rotation (22) of a gear wheel (17), with which a chain (13) is conveyed which comprises the
- 20 tensioning elements (1).
16. A means according to claim 15, characterised in that it is mounted rotatably.
- 25 17. A means according to any one of claims 12-16, characterised in that it is mounted on the same shaft (18) as the gear wheel (17) of the chain (13).
- 30 18. A means according to any one of claims 12-17, characterised in that the axis of rotation (21) and/or the axis of rotation (22) are inclined relative to the vertical.